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West Virginia NRCS News and Views

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
February 2005



Poultry Litter Transfer Program photo submitted by LaRae Baker and Barbara Victor

Click on photos to enlarge.

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With the new year off to a good start, I want to thank everyone for your dedication and hard work you did over the past year. You make our agency successful. ...[More Info](#)

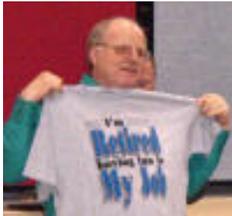
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Mike Johanns, the 28th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and



Greg Kist, the new Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations in the Parkersburg Area Office

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On February 8-9, West Virginia State Food and Agriculture Council hosted an *All Agency* meeting. Over 200 agricultural professionals met to share information and find out what others offered to the agriculture community. ...[More Info](#)

[WV Conservation Partnership's Monthly Report](#)

The latest news sent out by the WV Conservation Agency.

To submit news items for the May *News and Views*, please send an e-mail message to

[Carol Lagodich](#)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS West Virginia State Office

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Lillian Woods, State Conservationist

NRCS field offices are located throughout West Virginia

Visit <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/> for addresses and phone numbers.

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Message from State Conservationist

By Lillian V. Woods

With the new year off to a good start, I want to thank everyone for your dedication and hard work you did over the past year. You make our agency successful. West Virginia NRCS recently issued its [2004 annual report](#) of conservation accomplishments. You should be proud of what we, along with our partners, have attained. We have all had great demands on our time and responded to that call.

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is being introduced to three West Virginia watersheds this year:

- The Elk River watershed includes parts of Kanawha, Roane, Clay, Braxton, Nicholas, Webster, Randolph, and Pocahontas counties.
- The Twelvepole Creek watershed includes parts of Cabell, Wayne, and Mingo counties.
- The Little Muskingum-Middle Island (Upper Ohio River 3) watershed includes parts of Wood, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel, Doddridge, Marshall, and Harrison counties.

We are currently focusing on training staff from these counties with anticipation of a signup later this winter. Other West Virginia watersheds may be eligible in future years so it is important for us all to learn what we can about the program. This will help us prepare future eligible landowners for their opportunity.

CSP funding is still pending. We received the following amounts for Farm Bill Program contracts or easements:

Program	Allocation
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	\$706,179
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$5,495,984
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	\$1,978,751
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	\$990,170
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	\$150,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	\$715,230

Recent Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding cleared up the backlog of EWP sites on the waiting list. Recent allocations to West Virginia provided \$2,378,000 for the following disasters:

- February 2003 Flood - \$128,000
- June 2003 Flood - \$900,000
- Hurricane Isabel and November 2003 floods - \$1,350,000

Our 2005 National Priorities are:

1. Streamline and implement conservation programs
2. Implement President's management initiatives (strategic management of human capital, competitive sourcing, improved financial performance, expanding e-government, and budget and program integration)
3. Increase outreach activities and workforce diversity
4. Enable conservation delivery by modernization and expansion of technical capacity.

For fiscal year 2005, the following national priorities are established for the

Conservation Technical Assistance Program :

1. Comprehensive nutrient management planning to assist the owners and operators of animal feeding operations to address their conservation needs, with an emphasis on helping those owners and operators who need to comply with regulatory requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Rule.
2. Reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds, consistent with TMDLs where available, as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination and the conservation of ground and surface water resources.
3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land.
5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation.

Based on the initial review of FY-05 West Virginia allocation, this will be an extremely tight budget year. The Conservation Technical Assistance Program nationally was cut 36% but when the pay act (salary increase) and .8% recession of funds directed by Congress is added, the cut is more like a 45% cut in funds. You will feel the reduced funding through cuts of supplies, travel, training, delayed promotions, and delays or abolishing positions. We need everyone's help to manage through this deficit. The West Virginia Leadership Team (Principal Staff and ASTC-FOs) will be monitoring progress of assigned supplies budget, travel budget, and how employees charge program funds through WebTCAS. As we worked through the budget, I have made a priority to maintain all employees and continue office furniture replacements.

Thanks again for all your hard work and dedication.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gillian Woods".

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Program Updates

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CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP)

Three watersheds were selected in West Virginia for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) for FY2005. The watersheds are Twelve Pole Creek (Guyan Conservation District), Elk River (Capitol, Elk, Tygarts, Greenbrier Conservation Districts), and Upper Ohio #3 (Upper Ohio, West Fork, Little Kanawha, Northern Panhandle Conservation Districts). Upper Ohio #3 extends into Ohio, requiring a coordinated program across state lines.

The program has stewardship, maintenance and enhancement payments to reward farmers who have managed their land at the highest stewardship levels. It is estimated that nationwide only the top two to three percent of farmers will qualify. Non-qualifying farms will be encouraged to use existing Farm Bill Programs to address remaining resource concerns.

Sign-up will be announced by the Secretary of Agriculture and is expected to occur in mid-February to early March.

FARM BILL

Program	Allocation
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	\$706,179
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$5,495,984
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	\$1,978,751
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	\$990,170
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	\$150,000
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	\$715,230

NRCS in WV has received the following financial allocations for FY2005:

EQIP

First ranking period ends February 18, 2005. The second ranking period ends April 15, 2005.

WHIP

First approval of applications for plan and contract development was issued December 2004. WHIP ends its second ranking period on April 1, 2005. Applications received after April 1 will be held until the June 17 ranking.

AMA

First ranking period ends March 4, 2005

GRP

First ranking period ends February 18, 2005

All of these Farm Bill programs are on a continuous sign-up. We need to encourage additional sign-up to utilize all the available funds.

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program

Year	Number	Acres	Value
2002	4 farms	555	\$838,400
2003	9 farms	999	\$2.3 million
2004	11 farms	1490	\$3.98 million
Total	24 farms	3045	\$7.05 million

Some Statistics

- Average Easement Value = \$2,314 per Acre
- Average Farm Size = 124 Acres
- Range of Farm Sizes = 6 up to 265 Acres
- Range of Easement Values = \$ 250 up to \$4900 per ac
- Highest Offered Easement Value = \$ 15,000 /ac (Not Selected/Withdrawn)

What about 2005?

- NRCS has Received \$1.61 Million from FRPP to fund an estimated 2000 acres on approximately 15 farms.

SOIL SURVEY UPDATE

All NRCS Soil Information Now Internet-based. The West Virginia soil survey staff recently completed (December 2004) one of the largest data conversions ever in their 106 year history. All NRCS Official Soils Data is now certified and ready for public use on the Internet and supercedes all paper copies of the FOTG. The new eFOTG will reference this data from the Soil Data Warehouse (Mart). Soil data for any one of West Virginia's 55 counties can be accessed via the Internet at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda>.

[gov/](#).

"New Look" Soil Surveys Published on CD-ROM. In an effort to distribute soil survey information in a digital format, the soils survey staff is completing the formatting for over 30 "Soil Viewer CD" which contain digital soil surveys for all counties that have been digitized to date. Working cooperatively with the new National Geospatial Development Center at WVU, this media is being prepared to appeal to a wider range of our customers and includes the traditional soil survey lines, the most recent imagery, standard tables, and taxonomic sections. New information on the CD includes science content standards for West Virginia Public Schools, West Virginia Envirothon Objectives, and Tax Districts in each county. The CD runs on a Soil View 2.7 program (contained on the CD) licensed by ESRI.

WATERSHED PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Elkwater Fork (Upper Tygarts): Land rights work map has been transmitted to the Tygarts Valley CD. Sponsors are conducting appraisals and competitive requirements for land acquisition. The A&E Firm (Gannett & Fleming) has completed 74% of the design. WVDOH is designing stream crossings required below the dam.

Knapps Creek #6 design is 58% complete. A final alignment proposal has been made based on the owner's expressed preference. The project is on tract with construction slated for the spring of 2005. MOU. and O&M agreement needs revision.

Morgan County Water Resource Study: the Eastern Panhandle CD is working toward studies for the purpose of identifying additional public water sources. Demographic projections are also being planned with WVU performing the groundwater study.

Berkeley County Water Resource Study: staff are still working with the Berkeley County Source Water Protection (SWAP) group to assist in setting priorities. A county wide water resource council has been assigned to the project and the combined group

will soon have their first meeting.

Upper Deckers Creek AMD: NRCS and friends of Deckers Creek (FODC) Executive Director, Martin Christ continue monthly meetings to keep communication flowing and for updates of designs and other alternative solutions to the Kanes Creek and Richards mine sites.

Dunloup Creek Watershed: this flooding project is being re-evaluated.

Peterstown: preliminary findings do not look promising for a watershed dam, only a floodplain management study.

Inwood Flood Prevention Project: currently the State Office Engineering staff is providing design review to area staff members.

Lost River site #16: right of entry to site has been granted, provided that 48 hour notice is provided to landowner.

Little Whitestick Phase III: planning is continuing on the alignment of the channel with local parties.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

Work continues across the state with a request that residual funding be converted for use for any flood event of recent.

Dam Rehabilitation

An onsite assistance team from National Headquarters and the National Water Management Center have visited West Virginia and have recommended changes in its' rehabilitation program. These changes will help to speed the rehabilitation process.

Other rehabilitation sites beyond Brush Creek #7 and Upper Deckers Creek #6 will be re-evaluated.

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES

Little Whitestick Phase II: construction is 98% complete.

Lost River # 10: construction is in winter shutdown. The remaining work will be completed in the spring of FY-05.

Knapps Creek #24: construction completed under anticipated costs.

Potomac Headwater LTC: there were 22 land treatment contracts fully implemented in FY 04.

West Virginia Potomac Headwaters Land Treatment Water Quality Project

Data Reduction Breakdowns by Watershed & Parameter

	NF Fecal	LR Fecal	NF TP	LR TP	NF NO3	LR NO3
All Data	695	1882	948	1952	964	1964
Data Removed	155	327	150	397	166	409
Data Remaining	540	1555	798	1555	798	1555
% reduced	22.3%	17.4%	15.8%	20.3%	17.2%	20.8%

KEY

LR : Lost River

NF : North Fork

Fecal : Fecal Colony Forming Unit (CFU) /100mL

TP : Total Phosphorus

NO3 : Nitrate

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From the Field**Summersville Field Office**

Submitted by Debbie Dorsey

On December 1, 2004 the Nicholas County Commission voted to implement the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program for Nicholas County. This implementation includes the formation of a Farmland Protection Board and the property transfer tax to fund the program.

Nicholas County was the seventh county in West Virginia to implement both the Farmland Protection Board and the property transfer tax. Several local farmers have expressed interest in the program and applications will be taken as soon as the Board obtains the necessary tax exempt status.

The new address for the **Princeton Service Center** is:

241 Mercer Springs Road #B

Princeton, WV 24740-9632

The **Lewisburg Field Office** has relocated to a new building (approximatley .2 miles North of the old location - behind the Shell Gas Station).

179 Northridge Drive

Lewisburg, WV 24901.

Huntington Field Office

Submitted by Michael Marks

Sometime between 5:00 PM on Friday November 26, 2004 and noon Sunday November 28, 2004, someone broke into the Huntington FO by breaking a window out of the NRCS office. The cleaning people found the robbery when they came to the office on Sunday to clean.

The thieves took 3 laptop computers from the NRCS office, two from the Guyan Conservation District office, and one from the FSA office. They also took digital cameras from NRCS, FSA, RD, and the Guyan Conservation District offices, and a gps unit from FSA. They petty much ransacked the place and made a real mess. The thieves went through several desks and threw about everything out of them onto the floor.

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Kelley Sponaugle Retires

Submitted by Katy McBride and Susan Davis

On Saturday January 8, 2005, friends, coworkers, and family members gathered together at The Place in Beckley, West Virginia to wish farewell to Kelley Sponaugle (AST-FO) as he begins his next chapter in his life....retirement!

Noah Mullens (AST-FO in Virginia) acted as the Master of Ceremonies while other speakers included Lillian Woods, State Conservationist; Jim Piper, retired ASC-OM; Sam Depue, retired DC and Ray Crager, Grassland Specialist.

Many stories about Kelley were shared with the group – mainly about his wonderful golf games and there were a few about his excellent driving record (with a golf cart). The group finally learned what really happened at those mandatory out-of-state trainings that Kelley and Noah would go to.



Jim Piper presented Kelley with some tools to try to help improve his golf game while Ray Crager presented Kelley with a tool to help him locate future ramps for consumption.

Lillian Woods presented Kelley with a plaque for his years of service and Sam Depue presented Kelley with a framed photo of a native trout.

Susan Davis and Katy McBride presented Kelley with a retirement vase that was purchased with donations from West Virginia NRCS employees and others. Family members presented Kelley with gifts of appreciation.



The vase was detailed with his name, the agency name and years of service. The vase was handcrafted by Fenton Glass.



The donations were also used to purchase a compound miter saw for him for future "home improvements".



We wish Kelley all the best as he begins this next phase in his life. May he enjoy his retirement because we all know that Carol will. We wonder just how long her "honey-do" list is. Congratulations to Kelley and best wishes!

Kelley started with SCS after graduating from Normantown High School. While in FFS he participated in land judging and was on the team that won the national contest. Kelley was offered a student position at the Normantown FFA banquet. Prior to working for the SCS/NRCS Kelley worked with the Glenville State College farm and as a WVU graduate assistant.

The first 10 years of his career was working in soil survey—mapping nearly a half million acres in 14 counties. He is the lead author of the Kyova Interstate Industrial Site Report and the Mercer-Summers Soil Survey Report. From 1979 to 1997 he was the Area Conservationist in Beckley—working with the southern 19 counties and 4 conservation districts. From 1997 through 2004, he was the Assistant State Conservationist with leadership in RAMO and grassland programs.

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Grassland Project Plan Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*)

Spring/Summer, 2005

Submitted by Ray Cragar – Grassland Specialist

One scheme to combat “summer slump”, that mid-summer period when, in most years, cool-season forages have virtually quit producing, is to fill the gap by establishing part of a working grassland farm to warm-season perennial grasses. A species worth consideration is bermudagrass—an introduced, deep-rooted, sod-forming grass that spreads by means of stolons and rhizomes.

Some seeded varieties have proven to be cold-hardy and persistent as far north as North Platte, Nebraska (41 degrees north), which is about the same latitude as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (40 degrees north), and substantially higher elevation (2800 feet compared to 743 feet). Most seeded varieties are appreciably lower forage producers than the sprigged varieties (half to two-thirds the production), but sprigged varieties are:

- more expensive to establish (as much as 5 to 6 times as much as seed),
- require special handling during harvest, delivery, and installation,
- limited in availability as far as Appalachian commercial production.

There appears to be an opportunity, especially with the seeded varieties, to investigate an alternative warm-season grass species for livestock forage during the hot, dry summer months.

Procedure:

Assemble plant material (vegetative and/or seed) of seven bermudagrass varieties or

germplasm for adaptation and production studies and attempt to establish them on sites of cooperating landowners that represent a geographic cross-section of the East Area. The area consists of three different Major Land Resource Areas:

- 126 and 127 – Central Allegheny Plateau and Eastern Allegheny Plateau and Mountains (Barbour County)
- 127 and 147 – Northern Appalachian Ridges and Valleys (Mineral County)
- 147 (Jefferson County)

Seed will be obtained from two companies producing varieties of cold-hardy forage-type bermudagrasses:

Company	Location	Seed	Experimental Seed
Johnston Seed Company	Enid, Oklahoma	Wrangler Riata	JE-3
KF Seeds	Brawley, California	KF-194 Sungrazer	Un-named

Sprigs of 'Quickstand' bermudagrass—a well-known, cold-hardy, vegetatively propagated hybrid variety will be provided by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center - Alderson, West Virginia.

Planting Plan



Plot Design: approximately fourteen acres*, two acres per variety, with boundaries of each plot well-defined (click on plot design example sheet to enlarge)

*may be more or less – dependent upon size of site offered by cooperating landowner

- **Seeding Rate:** 12 pounds/acre
- **Sprigging Rate:** 20-40 bushels/acre

- **Seeding Method:** broadcast and pack
- **Sprigging Method:** sling with manure-spreader, disk, and pack
- **Duration of Study:** 3-5 years

Management

Besides the attempt to replicate the installation and establishment of various bermudagrass varieties on the three sites, other goals of this project are: replications of cultural practices involved in site treatment (both pre- and post-installation), fertilization, and competition control, all using equipment that is readily available for most working farms and livestock operations in West Virginia.

General Requirements

Bermudagrass usually will not germinate until soil temperature has reached about 65 degrees F. Sowing depends on local conditions and soil temperature monitoring. To lessen the risk of poor stand emergence by sowing too early, late spring or early summer will probably be the optimum time for installation.

Bermudagrass requires full sunlight and good drainage for optimum performance.

It will tolerate a wide range in soil pH but performs best at a range between 6.0 and 7.0. Based upon a soil test, the pH is best corrected prior to installation by incorporating lime before or during seedbed preparation. A soil test this fall can also provide information on the fertility level of the site. For bermudagrass to perform at its full potential, the soil should contain at least 65 pounds per acre phosphorous and 200 pounds per acre potassium. These two macronutrients help in achieving good seedling growth and faster stand establishment. Nitrogen (N) should not be applied prior to sowing and sprigging unless levels are less than 25 pounds actual N per acre so that those weedy species that are more efficient users of N than young bermudagrass seedlings don't get a competitive advantage. As the stand develops, two weeks or so post-emergence, apply N to feed the growing bermudagrass plants.

Seedbed Preparation: destroy all existing vegetation with a tandem disc or chisel plow, followed by multiple passes of a harrow and/or a culti-packer to level and firm the soil

to a condition that when walked over the footprint should leave an indentation no more than ½ inch. The desired result is a clean, firm seedbed free of perennial weeds, large clods, and debris. This preparation enhances the prospect of good seed-soil contact that encourages uniform germination and establishment.

Installation: broadcast the seed with a whirly-bird type seeder at the rate of 12 pounds per acre; spread sprigs at the rate of 20 - 40 bushels per acre with a manure-spreader and then disk in. Then, whether broadcast or spread, immediately run over the site with a culti-packer or similar-type weighted implement to ensure good seed-soil contact or to reduce desiccation of sprigs.

The result of this study will be featured in a later issue of News and Views. Contact for more information:

Cragar, Ray	Grassland Specialist	304-457-1118 ext 119	Ray.Cragar@wv.usda.gov
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Smithsonian Soils Exhibit

State Pride, Via Soil . . . By Michael S. James

Submitted by Robert N. Pate

Think all dirt's pretty much just plain, old, ordinary dirt?

Wrong.

Just as the Slosheye Trail Big Pig Jig is the official pork barbecue championship cookoff of Georgia, and the yellowhammer is Alabama's bird, Monongahela is the official state soil of West Virginia.

"Dirt's not just dirt," says Jim Ware, a soil scientist with the Soil Survey Division of the Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service.

In fact, several states have named official soils over the past 25 years. . .

'Soil Is ... the Foundation of Our Economy'

To Ware, soil is worthy of state honors. In fact, the federal agency he works for has helped identify approximately 23,000 distinct families, or "series," of soils across America, each capable of supporting distinct crops, forests or construction projects.

The first official state soil, Nebraska's Holdrege soil, was established in 1979, Ware says. Since then, at least 19 other soils -- including Houdek (South Dakota), Chesuncook (Maine) and Bayamon (Puerto Rico) -- have gotten official state or territorial government nods. Active legislation in Pennsylvania and New Jersey soon may yield two more.

Ware also is helping the Smithsonian Institution prepare an upcoming exhibit on the

economic and historic importance of the nation's soils. A vertical cross-section of Missouri's Menfro soil is scheduled to go on display next month as a preview of what will be a much larger exhibit.

"Soil is really the foundation of our economy, when you get right down to it," Ware says. "A lot of the rise and fall of nations in the world depended upon the soil resources that they had."

Read the complete article at: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/story?id=304062&page=1>

Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Fund

Submitted by Skip Bell

The Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Fund continues to grow. Thanks to efforts of many people across the state of West Virginia, as of February 10, 2005, WVAPSS has met and exceeded our fund raising goal of \$10,000.

Here's a summary of some of our fund raising activities since the last update.

- Peg Reese's challenge grant has been met! There was about \$689 pledged to match Peg's challenge of \$500. Peg's generosity is very much appreciated.
- After the recent passing of WVAPSS charter member Roy Pyle, his family asked that donations be made to the WVAPSS Smithsonian Fund in lieu of flowers. To date, \$1347.00 has been donated in Roy's name. A check in that amount has been sent to the Agronomic Science Foundation in the name of the Roy E. Pyle Memorial Fund. We thank Darlene, Robin and Matt Pyle for their generosity. I know that Roy would be proud of them too.
- WVAPSS members Jared Beard, Carlos Cole, Charles Delp, Tim Dilliplane, Don Flegel, Scott Hoover, Katy McBride, Wendy Noll, Rob Pate, and John Sencindiver have attended board meetings

of the WV Soil Conservation Districts to solicit contributions. This is a follow up to the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit presentation given by Wendy Noll to the District Supervisors at the 2004 WV Conservation Partnership Conference in Charleston. The 14 West Virginia Conservation Districts have pledged a total of \$5,100.

- We all should be proud to know that a little bit of West Virginia agriculture will be included in the Museum of Natural History's, Soils Sustain Life Exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington D. C.

The West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (WVAPSS) is conducting a raffle to win this one-of-a kind stained glass window to support the Soils Sustain Life Exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.



One of a kind stained glass piece created by three West Virginia artisans.

Sue Bell designed a beautiful interpretation of late summer in the mountain landscape of West Virginia. Incorporated into the glass design is a quilt-inspired border. Trees, fern and flowers accent the river bank; blue and wine-colored mountains flank the flowing river.

One of a kind stained glass piece created by three West Virginia artisans. Sue Bell designed a beautiful interpretation of late summer in the mountain landscape of West Virginia. Incorporated into the glass design is a quilt-inspired border. Trees, fern and flowers accent the river bank; blue and wine-colored mountains flank the flowing river.

The frame is also a work of art. Skillfully hand-crafted from native cherry, the was crafted by Wendy Noll's husband. Joe has ingeniously designed this frame so that it may be removed without breaking the glass.

Even the glass was made at a West Virginia glass factory! Don't miss your chance to

own this beautiful piece of West Virginia.

Completed size: (including frame) 23" X 23"

For Tickets and complete contest rules, go to the WVAPSS website: <http://www.wvapss.org>

Tickets are \$2 each or 6 tickets for \$10. Please return tickets along with a check or money order made out to 'WVAPSS Smithsonian Fund' to:

WVAPSS

P.O. Box 1643

Morgantown, WV 26507-1643

The drawing will be held on Earth Day, April 22, 2005. The winner will be posted on the WVAPSS website on April 23rd. 100% of the money collected from this raffle will go to the Agronomic Science Foundation's Smithsonian Soils Exhibit fund.

WVAPSS will pay all costs for shipping

You can learn more the Soils Sustain Life Exhibit at the following website: <http://www.soils.org/smithsonian/>

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Quick Tip

Special Characters and Tedious-to-Type Words

Technical documents are likely to contain special characters and formulas. Symbols and special characters that don't appear on your keyboard can be displayed on your screen and printed. For example, you can insert symbols such as $\frac{1}{4}$ and ©, special characters such as an em dash (—), ellipsis (...), or nonbreaking space, as well as many international characters such as Ç and ë.



1. Click where you want to insert the character.
2. On the **Insert** menu, click **Symbol**, and then click the **Special Characters** tab.
3. Double-click the character you want to insert.
4. Click **Close**.

Sometimes you need to type the same word containing special characters or special formatting over and over. For instance, you may use the phrase "Schrödinger's equation" several times in a document. You can cut and paste to make this easier, or, even better, you can use Word's "AutoCorrect" feature under the "Tools" menu. Word automatically replaces the characters "SE" when typed in a document with "Schrödinger's equation", when you use the "replace text as you type" option as described below.

1. On the **Tools** menu, click **AutoCorrect Options**.
2. In the **Replace** box, type a shortened word or phrase.
3. In the **With** box, type the correct full spelling of the word.
4. Click **Add**.



For more Layout Tips for Technical Papers see:

<http://research.microsoft.com/users/jckrumm/Word%20Tips/technical%20publishing.htm>

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Bits and Pieces

Avoid Building Where a River Runs Through It

Are you thinking of buying property by a river for your new house or office? Or maybe you'd like to build a cottage by a pond, lake or stream? Water draws people but the property is most likely in a flood plain.

Flooding along West Virginia's rivers, creeks and lakes is common because the state can get large amounts of rainfall falling in a short period. Flooding is nature's way to clean waterways. Heavy rain, combined with steep topography and the soil types can lead to severe flooding resulting in death and destruction.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil scientists map areas, called the flood plain, to inform people of the risk of building near a body of water. The flood plain is the area adjacent to a river, stream, lake, or pond, that is filled by floodwater when it rains. Flood plains are classified by the rate of occurrence. Using data the collected about historical flood events, scientists estimate a 100-year flood plain. These calculations show people where they are likely to be safe from floods, even severe events. Building outside the 100-year flood plain means your house is unlikely to flood, because approximately once in 100 years floodwater would reach this area. In many states, it is now illegal to build new homes within this risky zone.

Building in flood plains is discouraged for two reasons. First is to protect residents from loss of life and property in case of a flood. Each year lives are lost and millions of dollars of flood damage occurs in West Virginia.

The second reason is to protect others from flood damage. Buildings displace water thus increasing the height of the rising waters and making the flooding worse everywhere along the banks. Buildings and pavement cover the natural ground surface that could soak up the water. The more buildings and pavement allowed, the higher the flood waters along that water body will rise, and the worse the flooding problems will get.

A building in a floodway will block the water's flow, backing up water and causing flooding upstream to worsen. A building in a flood fringe will prevent floodwaters from spreading out, thus forcing floodwaters downstream faster and increasing downstream flooding.

If you don't want a building where a river runs through it, check the flood plain maps before you purchase property. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) compiles soil surveys for each county in West Virginia. These soil surveys are a great resource tool for individual homebuyers interested in learning more about their land.

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Safety and Health

Current Road Conditions for Major Highways

Bookmark this page for easy access to road condition information for all Interstate and Appalachian Corridor routes within West Virginia. Special notices for the other primary and secondary roads are also included. This list is updated throughout the day, as changing conditions require. The page also has a link for construction areas.

http://www.wvdot.com/14_roadconditions/14_roadcond.cfm

New Dietary Guidelines Will Help Americans Make Better Food Choices, Live Healthier Lives

In January, the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2005*, the federal government's science-based advice to promote health and reduce risk of chronic diseases through nutrition and physical activity was released.

The new Dietary Guidelines highlight the principle that Americans should keep their weight within healthful limits and engage in ample physical activity," said Secretary Veneman. "The process we used to develop these recommendations was more rigorous and more transparent than ever before. Taken together, the recommendations will help consumers make smart choices from every food group, get the most nutrition out of the calories consumed and find a balance between eating and physical activity."

Key recommendations for the general population can be found at: <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/dga2005/recommendations.htm>

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Civil Rights/Outreach

Glenville FO Outreach Program

The Glenville Field Office received praise for their outreach program during the recent Civil Rights review. Scott Hoover describes the program below:

The first thing we do is target underserved areas. Then, we devote one day per pay period to Outreach. This is not an easy task. Everyone has many duties to perform, and many projects on the line. Outreach is one project that we feel is very important, and can no longer be ignored.

We start at the head of a watershed or community and go from farm to farm, and door to door. We talk to landowners about their operations, concerns, and interests. We ask them if they would like to be cooperators with the soil conservation district, and if they would like to participate in any of our programs. Not everyone wants to partner with us, but that is OK, because we have at least given them something to think about. Many times people will call us after they have thought about what we have discussed, and want to participate in a program.

When it comes to Outreach, you HAVE to "press the flesh". Media outlets do not give you the face-to-face experience that many people need to understand us and our efforts. Our Outreach Program is similar to the old "follow-ups" that were done in the past. Our agency has gotten away from that effort, and have become chained to our computers. I'm not saying that we do not need computers, but we cannot let computers dictate what we do. Farmers are the reason that we exist, and we need not forget that. At Glenville, we have stopped TALKING about how nice it was in the past to go visit farmers, and we DO it. Believe me, it makes our job much more enjoyable.

New Special Emphasis Program Managers

There are two new Special Emphasis Program Managers on the Civil Rights Advisory Committee. Barbara Broxterman is the new Federal Women's Program Manager and Marvin Kerr is the new Disabled Person's Program Manager for NRCS in West Virginia. West Virginia's Civil Rights Program has a web site that you can access from the WV NRCS home page or by clicking on the following site. <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/about/civilRights/civil.html>

Native American Indians Reference Library

A [library](#) containing reference material on Native American Indians has been established. The library consists of books and videos available to employees on a sign-out basis. Vickie Scott encourages all employees to utilize the library to become informed regarding the true history and heritage of the American Indian.

For more information contact:

American Indian/Alaska Native Emphasis Program Manager

Vickie Scott

Rt. 4, Box 503

Philippi, WV 26416

Work-(304) 457-1118 ext 101 Fax-(304) 457-4131

Vickie.Scott@wv.usda.gov

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Meet . . .

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE MIKE JOHANNIS

Mike Johannis was sworn in as the 28th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 21, 2005. Secretary Johannis' strong agricultural roots stretch back to his childhood. He was born in Iowa and grew up doing chores on his family's dairy farm. As the son of a dairy farmer, he developed a deep respect for the land and the people who work it. He still describes himself as "a farmer's son with an intense passion for agriculture." [..More Info](#)



Greg Kist has been selected as Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations in the Parkersburg Area Office effective March 6, 2005.

Greg is currently is the RC&D Coordinator in Georgia serving the Central Savannah River RC&D Area.

Greg grew up on a small farm in Okeana, Ohio. He graduated in December of 1983 from Eastern Kentucky University with a BS in Soils and Agronomy.

- Started career with SCS in February of 1984
- Soil Conservationist Wauseon, Ohio 3.5 years
- District Conservationist Wapakoneta, Ohio 3 years
- District Conservationist Batavia, Ohio 4.5 years
- RC&D Coordinator Augusta, Georgia 10 years
- Completed the NRCS Leadership Development Program in September 2003
- Served as president of the Georgia Envirothon for 7 years

- Served on Board of Directors of Golden Harvest Food Bank for 7 years

Greg has been married for 21 years to wife Lori with three children Ellen 15, Thomas 13, and Anthony 9.

His hobbies include coaching little league baseball, providing leadership in cub scouting and boy scouting, attending his children's other activities, fishing, hunting, gardening, and cooking.

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Personnel News

Submitted by Karen Fitchett

Personnel Changes from November 10, 2004 to January 8.

Name	Action	Location	Change
Becky Strogen	Change in WS	Technology Staff	
	To Part-Time	Mgtn – Secretary	
	Eff 1/9/05	GS-318-5	
Dave Sweeney	Conversion	Parkersburg WSo	
	Eff 1/9/05	Civil Engr	
		GS-810-7	
Athen Van Lear	New Hire	Philippi FO	Soil Scientist
	Eff: 11/14/04	GS-470-5	
Debra Cuningham	New hire	Huntington FO	Soil Scientist
	Eff 11/28/04	GS-460-5	

Aron Sattler	New Hire	Philippi FO	
	Eff 1/9/05	Soil Scientist	
		GS-470-5	
McBride, Katherine	Promotion	Huntington FO	Lewisburg FO
	Eff 11/14/02	Soil Consvst	Soil Consvst
		GS-457-7	GS-457-0
LaRae Baker	Promotion	Whitehall FO	Mt. Clare FO
	Eff 12/12/04	GS-457-7	GS-457-9
		Soil Conservationist	Soil Conservationist
Chad Cherefko	Promotion	Martinsburg FO	Oregon State
	Eff 12/26/04	Soil Consvst	
		GS-457-7	
Mike Jones	Promotion	Princeton FO	Soil Survey Office
	Eff 12/26/04	Dist Conv.	Mgtn
		GS-457-11	GS-470-12

Misty Householder	Reassignment Eff: 11/14/2004	Lewisburg Soil Conservst GS-457-9	Cross Lanes Soil Conservst GS-457-9
Marlene McDaniel	Retirement Eff 11//27/04	Soil Survey Office GS-1082-9	Editor
Kelley Sponaugle	Retirement Eff 12/31/04	Beckley AO ASTC-FO GS-401-13	
Thomas White	Retirement Eff 1/3/05	Keyser FO Dist Conserv GS-457-11	

Awards

Extra Effort	Spot Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingsbury, David • McLane, Laura • Beard, Jared • Chase, Debbie • Delp, Charles • Noll, Wendy • Baker, Steve • Delp, Charles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baker, LaRae • Beard, Jared • Brackenrich, D. • Cole, Carlos • McWhorter, Barb • Pate, Rob • Shrader, Casey • Baker, Steve

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenkins, Tony • O'Neill, Eileen • Reese, Peg • Crase, Ural • Haynes, W. • Vandevender, J. • Cherefko, Chad • Ely, Gary • Hannon, Valerie • Hunter, Luke • Kenney, Duke • Prescott, Tim • Ross, Christi • Cox, John • Godbey, Lee • Vance, Tom • Bishop, Beth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell, Skip • Dilliplane, Tim • Hoover, Scott • McBride, Katy • O'Neill, Eileen • Sponaugle, K. • Teets, Sigrid • Wolford, Isaac • Broyles, Dewey • Canfield, Timothy |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Performance

- Ali, Jim
- Delaney, Debra
- Fisher, Jessica
- Hatton, Joseph
- Householder, M.
- Lewis, Beckly
- Lupton, Pam
- Site, Rodney
- Wickline, Rocky
- Casseday, Larry

QSI

- Bell, Skip
- Edgar, Susan
- Andrick, Herb

- Findley, Sheldon
- Thornhill, Charle

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Upcoming Events

Submitted by Diana Doerr

Date	Meeting	Location
2/5-9/05	NACD Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA
2/8-9/05	All Agency Meeting	Morgantown, WV
2/18/05	WV Envirothon Meeting	Jackson's Mill
2/23/05	CSP Meeting	Doddridge Middle School
2/24/05	CSP Meeting	Northern Comm. College
3/1-3/05	Soil Survey-NASIS Interpretations Training	Morgantown, WV
3/3-5/05	NACD Spring Legislative Conference	Capitol Hill
3/15-16/05	NRCS State Staff/Program Managers Meeting	Morgantown, WV
3/21/05	Agriculture/Conservation Day	Charleston, WV
3/22-25/05	Soil Survey-NASIS Intermediate Training	Morgantown, WV
3/22-24/05	Appalachia Grazing Conference	Morgantown, WV
3/22-24/05	NEDC Buffer Course	Shepherdstown, WV

3/23- 24/05	26 Annual Contractor's Expo	Charleston Civic Center
3/28- 4/1/05	National SEPM Training	Reno, NV
4/11- 12/05	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts	Mineral Wells
4/13/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Mineral Wells
4/19/05	Conservation Education Council Committee Meeting	Gassaway, WV
4/20/05	Outreach Education Workshop	Bridgeport, WV
4/20/05	WV State Conservation Committee Meeting	Guthrie Center
4/28/05	WV Envirothon Meeting	Jackson's Mill
5/2/05	WVACD Scholarships due to Conservation Districts	
5/4/05	NACD Annual Meeting	
6/13- 18/05	WV Conservation Camp-Camp Caesar	Cowen, WV
6/20- 24/05	DNR Junior Conservation Camp	Cedar Lakes, WV
6/21- 22/05	NRCS State Staff/Program Managers Meeting	Morgantown, WV
7/1/05	Conservation Partnership Plan of Work (Completed)	
7/1/05	2005 WV Con. Partnership Watershed Award Nomination (Due)	
7/11- 12/05	West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts	Blackwater Falls

7/12/05	WV State Conservation Committee Meeting	Blackwarer Falls
7/11-15/05	Conservation Education Teachers Workshop	
7/13/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Blackwater Falls
7/17-23/05	Ted Harriman Forest Industries Camp	Rustic Camp Mahonegon
9/13-16/05	NRCS 2005 Operations Management Review	
10/18-19/05	NRCS State Staff/Program Managers Meeting	Morgantown, WV
10/26/05	West Virginia State Conservation Committee	Guthrie Center
11/1-3/05	WV Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting	Charleston
12/13-14/05	NRCS State Staff/Program Managers Meeting	Morgantown, WV

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All Agency Meeting

On February 8-9, West Virginia State Food and Agriculture Council hosted an *All Agency* meeting. Over 200 agricultural professionals from USDA agencies (NRCS, FS, APHIS, NASS, Rural Development, Farm Service); WVU Extension Service; West Virginia Conservation Agency, Division of Forestry, Depts. of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Natural Resources met to share information and find out what others offered to the agriculture community.

NRCS Presentations and Displays (click on photos to enlarge)



Rick Heaslip presented the CSP program using a PowerPoint presentation put together by Herb Andrick.



Steve Carpenter talked about soil survey updates, new maps available on CD, and publications.



Anthony Jenkins presented his forest soils in WV research.



Bob Hotchkiss (NRCS, Washington) and Lillian Woods discuss wild turkeys.



The new CD of WV soils was a popular item at the soils display.

A Source for WV Statistical Info

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) prepares official estimates of agriculture for the nation and for each state. Farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses are the grassroots source of information, collected through voluntary surveys conducted by

each state office throughout the year. Their WV web page includes 2002 Census of Agriculture state and county profiles.

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv/homepage.htm>

Miscellaneous Information about WV (2002) from the web site:

- Average Size Farm (acres): 172
- Average Net Cash Farm Income: \$4,976
- Average Total Value of Sales and Government Payments: \$23,448
- Average Age of Principal Operator: 56.3
- Average Years on Present Farm for Principal Operator: 20.8

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